

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 TRSE-00 AID-05 IO-13 DHA-02

ORM-02 ACDA-07 EB-07 /113 W

-----101419Z 122910 /65

P R 101235Z JAN 77

FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3356

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMCONSUL ASMARA

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY BANGUI

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L KHARTOUM 0085

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, SU, ET

SUBJECT: SUDAN/ETHIOPIAN RELATIONS

SUMMARY. FONMIN AND OTHER SENIOR CABINET OFFICER INDEPENDENTLY HAVE COMMENTED THAT, NEXT MOVE IN EFFORTS REDUCE SUDAN/ETHIOPIAN TENSION MUST COME FROM EPMG FOLLOWING GOS NATIONAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION (KHARTOUM 0046). WHILE TOP SUDANESE CONTINUE CONCERNED RE PUTATIVE LARG MACHINATIONS IN NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES, THEY EVIDENTLY PLAN NO FURTHER INITIATIVES PENDING SOME READING EPMG INTENTIONS RE ANSAR CAMPS. SUCH READING MAY WELL DETERMINE WHETHER ETHIOPIAN REQUEST FOR RETURN ITS WAYWARD KERERA TROOP UNIT WILL BE HONORED. END SUMMARY

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1. FONMIN MAKKAWI TOLD ME JAN 10 THAT BALL IN ETHIOPIAN COURT ON QUESTION FUTURE RELATIONS BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES. EPMG HAS ASKED THAT ETHIOPIAN TROOP UNIT WHICH TOOK REFUGE IN SUDAN JAN 6 (KHARTOUM 0071, NOTAL) BE RETURNED "IF POSSIBLE". SO FAR SUDANESE HAVE NOT ASCERTAINED WISHES OF TROOPS INVOLVED NOR DECIDED WHETHER ALLOW THEM RETURN SHOULD THEY WISH IT.

2. NOTING PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION (KHARTOUM 0046 NOTAL) HAD CALLED FOR POSITIVE ACTION BY EPMG TO DEAL WITH EXILED ANSAR ISSUE, MAKKAWI SAID IT WAS NOW UP TO ETHIOPIANS TO RESPOND. ANSAR CAMPS IN ETHIOPIA SHOULD BE "LIQUIDATED". IN RESPONSE MY QUESTION, MAKKAWI EXPLAINED ETHIOPIANS SHOULD CEASE SUPPLY ARMS AND EVEN ETHIOPIAN UNIFORMS TO ANSAR, SHOULD STOP THEIR TRAINING BY ETHIOPIAN OFFICERS AND SHOULD ASSURE CAMPS REVERTED TO UNEXCEPTIONABLE REFUGEE STATUS AS WAS TRUE WITH CAMPS OF ERITREANS INSIDE SUDAN.

3. MAKKAWI STRESSED WHOLE PROBLEM WAS DUE TO LIBYAN MONEY WHICH ERRATIC QADHAFI DID NOT KNOW WHAT TO DO WITH. EPMG MIGHT WISH CEASE AID EXILED ANSAR BUT WAS BEING "PUSHED" BY LARG WHOSE MINSTATE FONAFFS HAS MADE NUMBER VISITS TO ADDIS SINCE OCTOBER IN CONNECTION SUPPLY OF SOPHISTICATED WEAPONS TO ANSAR CAMPS. MAKKAWI SAID HE HAD TALKED EARLIER IN DAY WITH SOVIET AMBASSADOR FEDOTOV AND HAD TOLD HIM IT WAS UP TO ETHIOPIANS TO DECIDE THEIR FUTURE COURSE. HE HAD, HOWEVER, ALSO REFERRED TO SUPPLY RUSSIAN-MANUFACTURED ARMS AND TOLD ME HE HAD MEANT TO IMPLY TO FEDOTOV THAT IT WAS NOW UP TO ETHIOPIANS "AND USSR". FEDOTOV EVIDENTLY HAD DENIED ANY SLMJET INVOLVEMENT.

4. FONMIN CONTINUED THAT GOS WAS CONCERNED RE LIBYAN ACTIVITIES IN CAE AND NORTHERN CHAD WHERE, HE CLAIMED, LIBYANS NOW EXERTNISE DE FACTO CONTROL OVER NORTHEAST
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PORTION CHADIAN/SUDANESE FRONTIER. AS TO CAE, MAKKAWI SAID LARG EMBASSY BANGUI IS GREATLY OVERSTAFFED AND POSSESSES "30 JEEPS" WHICH OBVIOUSLY UNNECESSARY FOR THAT EMBASSY'S MODEST LEGITIMATE RESPONSIBILITIES. MAKKAWI CONCLUDED QUESTION AT ISSUE WAS THAT THERE HAD BEEN DEFINITE THREAT OF COUP ATTEMPT ALONG LINES LAST JULY. GOS WANTED ONLY GOOD NEIGHBORLY RELATIONS WITH ADJACENT STATES BUT WOULD FIRMLY RESIST ANY NEW ATTEMPT OVER-THROW NIMEIRI REGIME. ON PERSONAL BASIS, I SAID I HOPED SUDAN/ETHIOPIAN TENSION COULD BEGIN DE-ESCALATE WITH BOTH SIDES BEING GOOD NEIGHBORS.

5. IN SEPARATE CONVERSATION WITH MINCABINET AFFAIRS AL-KHIDIR (WHO IS FORMER SUDANESE AMBASSADOR ADDIS MET WITH CHAIRMAN TFERI BENTI IN EARLY NOVEMBER, AND IS SUBSTANTIALLY SENIOR TO FONMIN IN GOS PECKING ORDER), LATTER CLAIMED EPMG HAD BEEN ABOUT TO RELOCATE ANSAR CAMPS AWAY FROM FRONTIER LATE LAST SUMMER. HOWEVER "POLITICIANS" (READ

MAHDIST LEADERSHIP) HAD URGED THEM DELAY SUCH ACTION. LARG SUBSEQUENTLY WEIGHED IN WITH REQUEST RELOCATION NOT TAKE PLACE, AND DIRG COMPLIED. AL-KHIDIR RECALLED ETHIOPIAN UNIT HAD SOUGHT REFUGEE IN SUDAN FROM KARORA IN 1967. AT THAT TIME, UNIT HAD BEEN DISARMED BUT MEN WERE RETURNED ETHIOPIA. RE HIS TALK WITH TFERI BENTI, AL KHIDIR SAID LATTER HAD BEEN CONCILIATORY EVEN WHILE ETHIOPIAN HERALD HAD BEEN ATTACKING SUDAN. WHILE IN ADDIS AL KHIDIR HAD HAD NUMBER CONTACTS WITH ETHIOPIAN FRIENDS, ALL OF WHOM HAD EXPRESSED CONCERN RE DETERIORATING SITUATION.

6. COMMENT. BOTH MAKKAWI AND AL KHIDIR CLAIM EPMG BEING RESPONSIVE TO LIBYAN PRESSURE IN RETURN FOR SUBSTANTIAL LARG FINANCIAL HELP. THEY APPEAR CONCERNED THIS SITUATION LIKELY CONTINUE, ALTHOUGH BOTH NOTED SUDANESE DESIRE THAT RELATIONS SHOULD IMPROVE. WE
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CONCLUDE GOS IS REMAINING ON ITS GUARD AND WILL PROBABLY REACH DECISION RE RETURN ETHIOPIAN CONTINGENT IN LIGHT THEIR READING DIRG'S RESPONSIVENESS TO LINE TAKEN IN PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION.
BREWER

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